

Human Rights Commission Meeting
August 27, 2014, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners Gregory Bascomb, Ingrid Askew, Carol Ross, Sid Ferreira and Kathleen Anderson
Deb Radway, Dir HR2 and Alisa Brewer, Select Board liaison also present

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm. Meeting minutes approved for May 15, 2014

Old Business: Review of recent events:

1. Annual Awards Picnic/BBQ at Mill River - Greg forgot to thank Deb for her efforts putting together the BBQ in June and wanted to publicly appreciate and thank her for her tremendous efforts in making the event a reality.
2. Good job by the committee who put together the Frederick Douglas readings - Ingrid Askew - Recap by Ingrid - Event went smooth. Very simple to put together. Worked with great people who helped. Overall a great event. Ingrid believes the event should be done every year.
3. Paint and Sip fundraiser - Greg - First fundraiser for the commission. Small turnout about 8 people. May be able to run another fundraiser in November - ABC left a date open for it.
4. Community grant programs – Greg- TD Bank and People's Bank – provide community grants amount up to \$5000. These might be great opportunity for the commission. Need to look at deadlines in order for members to apply. Need to discuss what type of event(s) we'll be putting together.
5. Community Summit - Kathleen reported - Looking at dialogue between white peoples group and people of color together for a conversation/dialogue. This came out of "dialogues in race and class" that took place some years ago. A follow up discussion took place on how to go about getting people to these dialogue space. This was done "in a brainstorm format". Due to time constraints Greg asked that we proceed with the meeting with the understanding that the next meeting might be extended to include more discussion on other issues.
6. Film, Book and Video series: Not sure what is going on. Carol will look into it and report at next meeting.
7. Disability etiquette training with Madeline Peters - Greg wants to talk to Madeline about creating a community service project to work with people with disabilities. Madeline would train the volunteers that would be part of this community service project(s).
8. Community conversations - A few couple of them went well. Tim Nelson the Fire Chief is the next person to come in. Need to look at guidelines for the conversation with the guests/invitees the commission has appear. Will talk about this event again at October's meeting.

New Business:

1. Amherst Together - Carol reports on what Amherst Together is all about.
1st year is to map assets available in the schools, town and the community.
She will assess what is available in schools and then assess the town and map what the needs are. Based on those identified needs then start having a dialogue about those needs and how to resolve them. Maybe use the Ron Ferguson model. Carol will bring to the commission a more comprehensive list of models she might use.

Commission will support and continue to sponsor its annual event on the Common, December 10th to read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations. For the Dec. 7th Amnesty International event we can lend our support and name but may not be able to attend. This event would be a co-sponsorship.

2. The FY 13 Human Rights Commission annual report was approved - there were no dissension in approving the report.

No other addition to the agenda. Meeting adjourned at 8.02pm

Sid Ferreira, notetaker